Time Table for Power Sector reforms

398. DR. KARAN SINGH:
SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether at the meeting of the Council of Trade and Industry held at New Delhi in September, 2001, Government had assured to work out a time table for power sector reforms;

(b) if so, the details thereof and main objects of the reforms contemplated; and

(c) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) At the meeting of Prime Minister's Council on Trade and Industry held on 7.9.2001, the importance of improving the financial health of State Electricity Boards was emphasized. Ministry of Power has been emphasizing the need for undertaking reforms with a sense of urgency. Chief Ministers/Power Ministers Conference held in March 2001 resolved that commercial viability has to be achieved in distribution in next 2-3 years, effective programme needs to be launched for identifying and eliminating power thefts in next two years. Ministry of Power has MoUs with 19 States expressing joint commitment to Power Sector reforms. In these MoUs States have committed to achieve reform milestones and Government of India will extend financial support through APDP, additional allocation of power etc.